

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 2, 4 and 5 and replaces Sheets 2 and 3 of the originally filed drawings including Figures 2, 4 and 5.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claim 18 is pending in the application. Claims 1 through 17 have been canceled. Claim 18 is newly presented so as to provide the Applicant with a scope of protection commensurate with his contribution to the art. The specification and drawings have been amended to correct several informalities that were noted by the Office. Applicant submits that basis for the amendments and support for the new claim can be found throughout the application, drawings and claims as originally filed and as such, no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. In the revised drawings, reference number 72 has been deleted in Figure 2 and reference number 10a has been substituted for reference number 10 in Figures 4 and 5.

In view of the above remarks and the amendments to the specification and claims, Applicant submits that all informalities in the drawings noted by the Office have been resolved. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

SPECIFICATION

The specification stands objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has amended paragraph [0012] to describe the spline features that are formed on shafts 24 and 20 in a different way so as to eliminate potential ambiguities. Applicant has amended paragraphs [0015] and [0017] to eliminate reference to "shaft 20" as "output shaft 20" and to eliminate reference to "output shaft 24" as "splined shaft 24". Applicant has also amended paragraph [0018] to refer to the boot

seal in Figures 4 and 5 by a reference number other than reference numeral 10, and to state that the embodiment of Figures 4 and 5 is formed without discrete ribs rather than “without ribs”.

In view of the amendments to the specification and claims, Applicant submits that all informalities in the drawings noted by the Office have been resolved. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

NEW CLAIM

Applicant submits that:

U.S. Patent No. 6,361,444 to Cheney et al. doesn't teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 18. Moreover, the boot disclosed in the '444 patent is adapted to be coupled to an outer race (12) via a plurality of bolts or through a discrete “can” structure.

U.S. Patent No. 6,319,132 to Krisher doesn't teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 18 and moreover employs two clamps to secure the cover (32) to the shaft (30) and the spindle (16).

U.S. Patent No. 5,176,576 to Moulindt doesn't teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 18 and moreover employs two clamps to secure the bellows (32) to the shaft (30) and the cap piece (36).

French Publication No. 2,592,111 doesn't teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 18 and moreover employs two clamps to secure the bellows (1) to other structures (6,7).

U.S. Patent No. 3,262,706 doesn't teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 18 and is directed to a ball joint rather than to a mechanical joint for the transmission of rotary power.

U.S. Patent No. 4,456,269 to Krude et al. doesn't teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 18 and is directed to seal boot that includes a lip seal. the lip (12) of the seal are not confined to a particular location on the shaft (1) but rather are free to move axially along the length of the shaft in response to changes in the angular orientation of the shaft (1) to an outer joint member (2).

U.S. Patent No. 3,403,917 to MacSpadden doesn't teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 18 and is directed to a shaft seal for sealing the shaft of a hydraulic cylinder.

U.S. Patent No. 6,540,618 to MacDonald et al. doesn't teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 18 and employs a two-piece system with a boot (40) that engages a cover (45).

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits newly presented Claim 18 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding objections and rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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